

Sub B3  
combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the selected gift; automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the gift's purchase price; and attempting to satisfy the purchase request, wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price.

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210. The gift registry computer system according to claim 209, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

211. The gift registry computer system according to claim 209, wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of money.--

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**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicant and Applicant's representative wish to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesy extended during the interview on October 9, 2001. As mentioned at the

interview, Applicant submits herewith for the Examiner's convenient reference a copy of the provisional application from which the present application claims priority.

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed concurrently herewith. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the cited information and return initialed copies of the PTO-Forms 1499 to the undersigned with the next office action.

By the above amendment, claims 1-194 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 195-211 are added. As such, the various rejections of claims 1-194 are moot.

Applicant submits that the subject matter of new claims 195-211 is not taught or even suggested by the applied references. As discussed at the above-mentioned interview, these claims are directed, among other things, to enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient and to automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the gift's purchase price. The "partial purchase" feature is described, for example, on pages 24-26 of the application and solves a long-standing problem of gift registries in that the gift giver is forced to either buy the entire gift or none. If the cheapest gift on the registry costs \$50 and the gift giver wishes to spend only \$25 then no transaction can take place. If a gift giver wishes to spend \$75 and there are only two gifts on the list, one for \$50 and the other for \$100, then the gift giver can only spend \$50 and the registrant receives a smaller gift than he would have. In addition, while the average gift giver may spend \$50 to \$100, many desirable gifts (*e.g.*, televisions and other high end electronics, furniture, etc.) cost much more. The partial purchase feature solves these problems.

With the partial purchase feature, a giver can make a commitment for any giver-desired amount toward a gift. If he wishes to contribute \$25 toward a \$50 gift, he can do so. If he wishes to divide a total of \$75 between a \$50 and a \$100 gift, this is also possible.

The partial purchase feature makes it easy for multiple gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient. The gift givers are provided with an on-line display of the gift ideas and a gift registry computer system receives commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the on-line display. The commitments for monetary contributions are combined and a purchase request is automatically generated if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the gift's purchase price. An attempt is then made to satisfy the purchase request for purchasing the selected gift.

The Utopia article applied in the office action does not teach or suggest the method and system specified in claims 195 and 209. This article makes only a generalized reference to "group purchases" that allow guests to "collectively contribute toward gifts that might otherwise be beyond their individual budgets." This generalized reference clearly is not a disclosure or suggestion of the features specified in claims 195 and 209.

The Examiner's attention is directed to additional information regarding the Utopia system provided in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith. Applicant notes that a gift recipient using the Utopia system is required to first identify those gifts which might be beyond the budget of potential gift givers and then second, split the gift into chunks (or shares) of equal amounts. ("typically \$50") This approach

means that the gift giver must buy the entire chunk or none at all. The gift giver does not have the option of buying “half” a chunk. For example, if a gift recipient using Ucopia’s system divided up a \$1,000 sofa into \$50 chunks, a gift giver who wishes to spend only \$35 would still not be able to contribute. Similarly, a gift giver who wished to contribute \$75 would only be able to purchase one chunk (at \$50), resulting in a smaller gift. Thus, in the Ucopia system, the gift recipient must decide whether to split up a gift into chunks and, if so, must then decide on the size of the chunk. In some instances, however, it may not be possible or convenient to divide the gift price into uniform chunks (e.g., if the gift price is \$1,333.37). It is difficult for the gift recipient to make such decisions because the gift recipient typically does not have full knowledge of the spending power of potential gift givers. Yet, under the Ucopia system, if these two decisions are not made correctly, a gift may remain on the registry un-purchased because it is too expensive. Also, if the size of the chunks is not optimal, then the gift recipient may not receive as much “gift” as he or she could have. For example, if the chunk size is \$50, then a gift giver willing to spend \$75 is likely to purchase only one chunk.

In contrast, the claimed method and system permit the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution to be of any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift’s purchase price. Thus, unlike the Ucopia system, the claimed method and system permit a gift giver to contribute as much or as little as he or she wants. This results in greater convenience for registrants, and maximizes the amount of gifts received. For example, a gift giver wishing to spend \$75 can spend exactly \$75.

The Cohen article simply provides very generalized descriptions of several on-line gift registries. None of these descriptions discloses or suggests, among other things,


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the concept of enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient as set forth in claims 195 and 209.

Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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Version Marked to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 12 has been amended as follows:

This invention [inventions] relates to the field of data processing in a business transaction and more particularly to a gift registry system and method.

The paragraph beginning one page 26, line 16 has been amended as follows:

However, this recipient may know that the gift ideas they select at the establishment are priced at retail, and that the same items are available from a discount establishment at a savings. Therefore, the gift recipient, knowing that the same gift is available at a lower price has a dilemma. If they register with the retail establishment, the giver will be able to take advantage of the centralized gift registry, but will have to pay more for the gift than it could be purchased for at a discount establishment. However, if the gift recipient does not register this gift, gift givers would have no way of knowing that this gift is wanted. Some gift recipients [recipient] will register the gift at the higher price, and then attempt to return it, taking the cash and buying the same gift at the lower price. This is inconvenient for the recipient. Moreover, some stores have sought to prevent this practice by implementing restrictive return policies.